

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

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Steering Committee

Campus Governance

4-23-2018

Steering minutes 04/23/2018

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Recommended Citation

Steering Committee, "Steering minutes 04/23/2018" (2018). *Steering Committee*. 39.
<https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/steering/39>

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Steering Committee
April 23, 2018

Present: Nic McPhee, Tammy Berberi, Angie Senger, Tim Lindberg, Michelle Behr, LeAnn Dean, David Roberts

Guests: Ryan Schamp, Dave Israels-Swenson

UMM staff/faculty lounge

Ryan Schamp distributed survey results including the comments. Respondents were asked to rate their interest in having a UMM staff/faculty lounge on an eleven-point Likert-type scale. On this scale, 0 = "I strongly feel that UMM should not have a faculty/staff lounge." And 10 = "I strongly support the idea of an on campus faculty/staff lounge." Although not prompted as such on the quiz, an answer of 5 assumed to equate to a neutral opinion. 63.9% of respondents reported positive interest in a lounge; the majority responded with a 10. 26.7% of respondents reported negative interest in a lounge; the majority responded with a 9. 9.3% of respondents reported no interest in a lounge.

A workgroup of 7 people worked with Sodexo. Sodexo believes the lounge would be profitable and agreed to manage. There are two movable walls in TMC that would create a space for a lounge. The money for building the two walls and coolers would come from the University's dining reimbursement fund.

If Steering approves with moving forward, the proposal would be presented at Campus Assembly. Ryan added that when the proposal was presented to the VC group, they politely but firmly expressed zero interest in pursuing. Michelle confirmed and said it would look bad to spend money on this at a time when we have budgetary constraints. Dave added that the student center has no interest in having the lounge in the facility. Tim liked the idea of bringing staff and faculty together. There was consensus that this proposal would not be brought forward. Nic suggested that in the spirit of trying to identify better ways to build community, perhaps Steering could take this up next year as a broader issue.

Community hour

As a reminder, Steering has suggested the following schedule for Tuesdays:

- Every 1st Tuesday is Campus Assembly
 - This gives us 8 meetings a year (Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec; Feb, Mar, Apr, May), which is about an hour less total time than the current 6 meetings of 1.5 hours each.
- Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday is for major campus committees
 - Not every committee would need to meet every other week, but the slots would be there.
- Every 3rd Tuesday would be available for Division and Discipline level business

- Disciplines that meet very frequently (e.g., weekly) won't be able to use Community Hour for that many meetings and will still need to sort out a separate meeting time, presumably like they do now.
- Divisions will likely need more than one meeting a month for their business, especially if they're limited to hour-long meetings. They may be able to handle "regular" business, but things like annual reviews and promotion and tenure meetings may require other meetings outside of Community Hour.
- The occasional 5th Tuesday will be dealt with as needed

Our hope is to preserve most of the Thursday Community Hours for primarily non-governance activities like student group meetings, ad hoc meetings (e.g. our current Campus Visioning Discussions), and outside speakers.

Steering walked through the proposed schedule for 2018-19. Dave Israels-Swenson will pre-assign rooms for all meetings.

Dave noted that some disciplines meet every week while some hardly ever meet. If groups are meeting outside the community hour time, Nic wondered if Steering should be informed so we have more data. Are there categories of needs we need to be attentive to? We would also want to know of requests that we can't be accommodated. How much conflict is there in terms of people's obligations to different things? Do we want to evaluate at the end of fall or at the end of the academic year? Steering could provide a feedback mechanism at the end of each semester. Does Steering want to track or put some parameters around open meeting times on Thursdays?

Tammy mentioned a concern from Mike Bryant, chair of the Membership Committee, and the timing of holding a committee chairs meeting. Membership is working hard to finish committee rosters and he's worried about attendance at the joint meeting of Steering and committee chairs.